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# SCIENCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1913

## MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

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### HISTORICAL

THE first medical school in the United States was organized in 1765 in connection with the University of Pennsylvania by Dr. W. Shippen, the anatomist, and Dr. John Morgan, both of whom had been favorite pupils of the Hunters in London and were graduates of Edinburgh. The Harvard Medical School was founded in 1783 by Dr. John Warren, who had been a military surgeon in the army from the battle of Bunker Hill until ill health forced his retirement. Anatomy was taught by demonstrations, but in 1809 a room was opened which offered to students opportunities for dissection similar to those given by the Hunters in London. It is stated that these facilities were superior to those obtainable on the continent of Europe.

As time went on there was a great increase in the number of medical schools; the older schools either dropped their university affiliation or this became nominal. The "proprietary school" arose, in which a few practising physicians came together for the purpose of giving lecture courses and clinics to medical students during a period of five months each year. The students listened to the same courses during two successive terms and, after passing an examination, received the degree of M.D. eighteen months subsequent to the beginning of their medical studies. Attempts to raise the standard of medical education were always accompanied by a loss of fees,

<sup>1</sup> A report prepared for the International Conference on Post-graduate Medical Education held at the time of the Seventeenth International Medical Congress, London, 1913.